

# Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

April 4, 2013

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## Director Offers Insights on Leading Department

by Jim Dickson

With just two weeks under his belt at the helm of MoDOT, Director Dave Nichols recently took time to reflect on the job at hand, his emphasis areas and the direction for the department.

**Q: What do you think prepared you best for this position?**

**Nichols:** Over the past two years, I've been directly involved in the decisions coming from the director's office. So, I'm familiar with most of what's going on. I'm sure there will be some learning moments along the way, but I won't have quite as much to learn as some might.

Along my career with the department, I've held a variety of technical and managerial positions, but I believe the job that really put it together for me was being a resident engineer. At the time, it was a combination of project management and customer relations. Working long, hot days out at the project site and then coming back to the office to return calls to local citizens really shaped my perception of what it is to be a public servant.

**Q: Where do you see the department headed?**

**Nichols:** There's a lot outside our department that can affect our direction, but I think we are in a good position to move forward. Our rightsizing efforts have streamlined us to be more efficient in delivering a program of any size. Whether we get additional transportation funding or not, we will be successful. We're also getting great input on what our customers want from the On The Move effort to update our long-range plan. Inside MoDOT, streamlining our performance management system is going to help us focus on the most important things to our customers and our success.

In the short-term, our focus will be 'steady on' toward keeping our customers and ourselves safe, keeping roads and bridges as good as we can, delivering outstanding customer service and preparing for a bigger program.

**Q: Where would you most like the department to improve?**

**Nichols:** Anyone who knows me will tell you I have two hot buttons. One is safety. Before I began my engineering career, I was an emergency medical technician. I've seen firsthand the heartache created by not focusing on safety. Each morning as I walk through the parking lot, I glance over at the Fallen Workers' Memorial. I don't want to see any more names added. We have to do better making sure everyone goes home safe every day.

The second is innovation. We need to make sure we're leveraging technology to improve how we deliver results to our customers. The private sector is a great place for us to find new approaches to integrate into our workforce. There's an explosion of technology occurring around us. We just need to be bold in taking advantage of it.

**Q: What do you see as MoDOT's biggest challenges?**

**Nichols:** Obviously, funding is at the top of the list. We need a long-term solution to our funding problem. Transportation is such a strong economic engine for the state's economy. This is our chance to really drive growth in the cities and counties we serve and build a bright future for Missouri. The transportation sales tax being proposed in the Legislature is encouraging. I believe we have proven MoDOT and our transportation partners can deliver results, and I'm excited Missouri voters may be given a chance to make some real progress in building our transportation system.

Internally the challenge is getting our staffing numbers back to the target numbers and energizing the department to be the best it can be. I'm a positive person and believe we gain nothing by dwelling on the past. It's time to start thinking and leading in a positive way. I'm a firm believer our best days are yet to come.

**Q: Any final thoughts for employees?**

**Nichols:** This is a busy time for everyone with the beginning of warm weather activities and project startups. Transportation funding issues will take up much of my time the next few months, but don't be surprised if I pop in to see you while I'm in your area. Until then, I hope to begin our discussions through a variety of communication methods such as e-mails and videos. I may even try my hand at tweeting. Watch your in-box for details.

Most of all, please stay positive and be SAFE out there.



Director Dave Nichols speaks to transportation partners regarding MoDOT's On The Move initiative earlier this year.

## On The Move

### What They're Saying

On The Move listening sessions to hear what type of transportation system Missouri citizens want to see in the state will continue through the end of the month. Here's a sample of what some community leaders are saying.

*"It's clear that a scenario where we only focus on maintenance is not an option," said Randy Allen, president and CEO of the Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce. "If we cannot update and upgrade our transportation system, we won't be doing what is necessary to make Missouri competitive and keep up with the needs of mid-Missourians."*



*"Like building homes, improving our state's transportation infrastructure creates jobs and grows our economy" said Patrick Sullivan, executive vice president of the Home Builders Association of St. Louis & Eastern Missouri.*

*"Missouri has a unique transportation asset in the Mississippi River," said Lester Goodin, Cape Girardeau resident and member of the American Society of Agricultural Consultants. "We should leverage that river transport asset by integrating more fully our rail and highway infrastructure with the river. I think increasing and improving intermodal capacity is Missouri's great opportunity in the coming decade."*

*"Now more than ever, we live in a global world," said Chip Casteel, vice president of public policy at the St. Louis Regional Chamber.*

*"We're no longer competing with just our neighboring states. We're competing with countries around the globe. And the good thing for St. Louis is that we have the resources to compete on that global scale. What we can offer here in St. Louis and regionally is exactly what is needed to keep our economy growing."*

### Mobile Tours Begin



The next phase of the On The Move initiative begins this week. MoDOT ambassadors will embark on a mobile tour that will take them into every Missouri county over the next three months to solicit one-on-one feedback from Missourians on their 20-year vision for transportation in the state.

Eight MoDOT vehicles have been "wrapped" with the On The Move brand to attract attention as a discussion starter.

The St. Louis District will kick off the mobile tour this weekend when it appears at Missouri Tartan Day festivities on the St. Charles riverfront.

For more information on the listening session or mobile tours, visit the website [On The Move](http://www.modot.org/connections.htm).

## Inventory Control

by Bob Brendel

A consequence of the implementation of the Bolder Five-Year Direction is the increased amount of excess inventory as the result of the consolidation of offices and reduction in the number of maintenance facilities.

As a result, remaining maintenance lots have increased responsibilities for larger areas and greater potential for collection of excess chemicals and materials. Successfully managing these materials is an important aspect of MoDOT's commitment to being environmentally responsible

Inventory Control is the supervision of supply, storage and accessibility of items in order to ensure an adequate supply without excessive oversupply.

Excess inventory is an issue for any business. For MoDOT, excess inventory could be anything from dump trucks to paper clips that we no longer need to build and maintain Missouri's road system. While vehicles and office supplies have a monetary value, other items such as excess cleaning supplies, paints, oils and specialty products tend to lose their value and effectiveness over time. As time passes, more supplies are purchased and the existing supplies are usually pushed to the back of the cabinet/shelf, or they are forgotten in a back corner or under a work bench. Sometimes a specialty product is purchased for a specific need and then the need disappears.

Containers eventually start to deteriorate, labels fall off, and the material goes "bad". A material goes "bad" once it is stored past its shelf life or is stored improperly. In essence, every item has a shelf life and needs to be stored properly (e.g., eggs, canned goods). Paint, cleaning supplies, and other products are no different. For example, paint generally has a shelf life of 2-4 years. Some specialty paints that are used at MoDOT have a shelf life of one year or less. Allowing paints and other materials to freeze due to improper storage will also result in the material going "bad."

Excess inventory and expired materials are a significant issue for MoDOT and our environmental staff. To be able to use material in day-to-day operations, all staff must be able to identify both what the material is and how it is to be used in a safe effective manner. If the label is removed or has fallen off a container, or if material is placed into a different container and is not labeled, it is impossible to do that. If the material is past its shelf life, an inferior material could then be inadvertently placed on the state's roads and bridges.

From a regulatory point of view, this material becomes a waste when staff is unable to identify the material or if the material is past its shelf life. In the last three-and-a-half years, MoDOT has spent approximately \$145,000 on disposal of excess and expired chemicals.

Excess inventory has been an issue for some time, but the Bolder Five-Year Direction has increased the challenge. A key to future success will be adopting an awareness of inventory control, as well as ensuring proper container labeling and storage. A commitment to these factors will help MoDOT make strides toward using resources wisely and keeping customers and ourselves safe.

For more information, contact Bill Wilder, senior environmental specialist, at (573) 526-2904.



A key to future success of inventory control will be adopting an awareness as well as ensuring proper container labeling and storage.



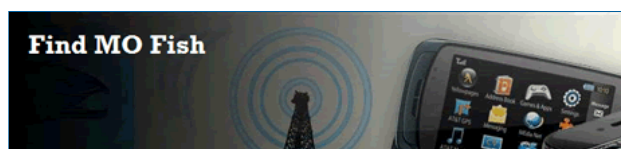
## What's Happening



### Watch This Space for a Chance to WIN a MoDOT Centennial T Shirt!

Starting next issue, you'll have the chance to answer a quiz and win!

Brush up on your MoDOT history and be ready for anything as we Celebrate a Century of Service.



### Around the Web Useful Ideas From Other Agencies

The Missouri Department of Conservation offers a free smartphone app that features a map of Missouri with the locations of public boat ramps to the major lakes, rivers and streams of Missouri highlighted. The map also shows the exact location of underwater structures Conservation established over the years. These fish-attracting structures act as habitat for fish. With the geo-location feature, you can guide your boat right up to them and drop a line.

The app is available for Android, iPhone and Blackberry. Try it now and get hooked on fishing in Missouri - Find Fish.

### April Service Anniversaries

#### 35 Years

Dale Morris Davis – CD  
Stephen C. Matheis – CD  
John E. Tutt – SE

#### 30 Years

Kevin L. Briggs – SL  
Clinton L. Stoutt – SL  
Jacqueline S. Holzbierlein – CO  
Steven H. Jackson – CO

#### 25 Years

#### 15 Years

Cynthia Marie Gamache – NW  
Everett D. Goddard – NW  
Holly Lea Hailey – NW  
Curtis Vernon Prussman – NW  
Earl R. Puett – NW  
Roy L. Collins – NE  
Sonya A. Henson – KC  
Anthony Roy Martin – KC  
Russell T. Fisher – CD  
Curtis Wayne Houchins – CD

#### 10 Years Continued

Garry Lee Goss – SL  
Edward Lytle Lewis – SL  
Beth Anne Schaller – SW  
Kelly R. Tummons – SW  
Travis Gordon Wilfong – SW  
Gregory A. Cotter – SE  
David R. Ledgerwood – SE  
David R. Massey – SE  
Melvin L. Distler – CO  
Devon L. Christensen – CO

George T. Downing – NW  
 Michael J. Ewigman – NW  
 David E. Grable – NW  
 Douglas P. Ragan – NW  
 Deborah Przybylski – NE  
 Todd Wayne Matthews – KC  
 Brent D. Emerson – CD  
 John R. Forderhase – CD  
 Charles Alan Sullivan – CD  
 Kenneth G. Wyss – CD  
 Joyce M. Blackey – SL  
 Pamela Jean Carnahan – SL  
 Matthew C. Matter – SL  
 Mickie M. Wolfinbarger – SW  
 Kevin Lynn Evans – SE  
 Patricia Louise Pogue – SE

#### 20 Years

Christopher D. Baker – NW  
 Russ A. Love – NW  
 William E. Luther – NW  
 Douglas K. Patton – KC  
 Marcus Byron Slaughter – KC  
 Michael J. Castro – SL  
 Debra A. Kohler – SL  
 Charles A. Nichols – SL  
 Joey Francis Aldridge – SW  
 Steven B. Clevenger – SW  
 Brian K. Long – SE  
 Rodney L. Wiles – SE  
 Francis John Reichart – CO  
 David Vernon Simmons – CO

Rick L. Schrautemeier – CD  
 Lewis E. Trepanier – CD  
 Paul J. Henke – SL  
 James Wayne Sullentrop – SL  
 Robert Vaughn – SL  
 Christopher E. Ward – SL  
 Andrew Judd Ellsworth – SW  
 Michael Alvin May – SW  
 Paul O. Butler – SE  
 Mark S. Ham – SE

#### 10 Years

Frank M. Halamar – NW  
 Craig Allyn Proctor – NW  
 Aaron T. Carr – NE  
 Clyde E. Dunker – NE  
 Anthony R. Ewalt – NE  
 John R. Koester – NE  
 Robin L. Pratt – KC  
 Shawn R. Tillman – KC  
 Tammy Lynn Wimmer – KC  
 James Eugene Blankenship – CD  
 Eugene E. Davis – CD  
 Kevin L. Heavin – CD  
 Jared C. Housewright – CD  
 Jeffrey A. Watson – CD  
 James Dwane Neal – SE

#### 5 Years

Terry Wayne Babbitt – NW  
 Clayton F. Lollar – NW  
 John Robert Ogle – NW  
 Matthew Stephen Swofford – NW  
 Dale Kenneth Williams – NW  
 Joseph Scott Mason – NE  
 Kenneth Wayne Nerini – NE  
 Justin Lee Rottman – NE  
 Daniel A. Mensing – KC  
 Darryl Edward Suiter – KC  
 Kenneth W. Blecha – SL  
 Jeffrey Coleman – SL  
 Michael Edward Hurst – SL  
 Jimmy Darrell Smith – SL  
 Timothy Patrick Wilson – SL  
 Daniel D. Clutter – SW  
 Gerald D. Esser – SW  
 Wade P. Wood – SW  
 Patrick Michael Woods – SW  
 Alvin D. Cookson – SE  
 Ted S. Koester – CO  
 Debbie A. Scheperle – CO  
 Cathy A. Propst – CO  
 Matthew J. Kiefer – CO

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## Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference Schedule Nearing Completion

by Jim Dickson



Regional Diversity and Inclusion Conference participants enjoy a group breakout on personality types. A series of questions and word associations determined individual personality strengths by color. This group was the "Adventurous Orange" personalities. Each group learned more about its particular strengths and how to better involve other personality types.

over the summer months with EODD's Elizabeth Reed collecting potential conference dates and topics from district management teams. Reed then searches for regional and national speakers to address the topics. The conference schedule usually begins in the fall and concludes in the spring. This year's schedule will conclude with sessions in the Southwest and Southeast Districts in April.

The Central District and Central Office conference featured sessions on addressing subtle, unconscious actions that may make other people feel uncomfortable or unwelcome, understanding personal traits and the value differences bring to organizations and an approach to begin dealing with increasing diversity in the workforce. Nickens told the participants it's okay to be shaken up or confused by what they heard at the conference.

"It's not our intention to make everyone think the same way," said Nickens. "These conferences are our way of giving you the opportunity to begin thinking differently about diversity and inclusion. Every day there is a learning opportunity to think about something differently. You just have to decide if you are willing to take it."

The fifth of seven regional conferences on diversity and inclusion was held for Central District and Central Office staff March 28 in Jefferson City. This is the third year MoDOT has hosted a conference in each district rather than a single conference for all areas of the department. According to Employee Opportunity and Diversity Division Director Rudy Nickens the approach has allowed more employees to participate and each region to customize its conference.

"I couldn't be prouder of how district management teams have taken the lead in these events," said Nickens. "And I'm especially proud of MoDOT for its commitment to offer these conferences. I don't think there is anyone else in state government doing anything close to this."

The regional conference process begins

## Awards

by Tammy Wallace

### LPA Vision Team

A MoDOT team working to improve the Local Public Agencies program was awarded the Bronze Performance Excellence Award, by the American Association of State and Highway Officials. The award recognizes projects with performance excellence results meeting the highest standards.

The teams overall focus was to find ways to complete projects on time, on budget and in compliance with federal law. They identified five areas to improve and developed implementation strategies:

- Develop a FHWA/MoDOT certification program
- Develop a training program
- Improve the Missouri LAP manual
- Develop a program and project management tool
- Develop a continuous improvement team



MoDOT Director Dave Nichols (right) presents the to Bronze award to team leader Kenny Voss.

According to Local Program Administrator and team leader Kenny Voss, so far MoDOT has implemented all of the recommendations from the vision team. "Improvements to the LPA Manual and website have improved consistency and communication for Missouri's Local Program," said Voss. "MoDOT has also provided basic federal-aid training to more than 1,500 public agencies and consultants, which has helped to improve project delivery of federal-aid projects for our customers."

LPA Strategic Vision Team members were: Kenny Voss (team leader), Charles Pursley, Jessica Keathley, Jerica Holtsclaw, Todd Grosvenor, Lee Ann Kele, Dion Knipp, Paula Gough, David Luther, Wesley Stephen, Dawne Gardner, and Karen Miller (team facilitator).

### I-44 Bridge Project

Parsons, an engineering firm, was awarded the 2013 Grand Conceptor Award by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Missouri. The award was given for the slide-in replacement of the westbound I-44 Bridge over the Gasconade River in Laclede County. Parsons was hired by the contractor on the project, Emery Sapp and Sons, Inc.

Parsons developed the slide-in construction to reduce the total bridge closure days. The replacement six-span, 670-foot steel girder superstructure was built on temporary piers next to the original bridge, then the 4.1-million-pound structure was slid laterally 41-foot into place. Placement was accomplished in 12 hours, and the total bridge closure was only 20 days rather than the typical closure of 90 days. MoDOT had included an incentive of \$40,000 per day for the successful low bidder to find a way to minimize the impact on the traveling public.



Left to right: Dennis Heckman, state bridge engineer; Rick Mantay, senior engineer and Midwest District Manager of Parsons; Bill Dunn, structural engineer; and Vickie Woods, resident engineer on the project and now physical laboratory director.

The ACEC/MO selected the project for exceeding all expectations regarding the speed at which a bridge replacement project could be performed. The slide-in technique reduced closure days, which in turn improved safety for the traveling public by limiting the number of days of head-to-head traffic.

MoDOT's Resident Engineer Vicki Woods and Structural Project Manager Bill Dunn were an integral part of the success. MoDOT State Bridge Engineer Dennis Heckman said the project truly provided outstanding customer service. "This project is a great example of MoDOT working with our industry partners to deliver a high quality project with the least impact to the public," Heckman said.



Two time-lapse videos showing the bridge during construction and sliding into place are posted on You Tube.

MoDOT You Tube  
Emery Sapp You Tube

## What's Happening at Central Office

### 100 Central Office Kicks off Centennial

On Mon., March 25, Central Office kicked off its celebration of MoDOT's centennial year. Employees in four buildings joined Director Dave Nichols in recognizing how far the department has come.

Nichols displayed Governor Jay Nixon's proclamation recognizing MoDOT's 100th year and spoke of high points in the agency's past.

He honored the Central Office's longest-serving employees, Chief Counsel Rich Tiemeyer and Senior Executive Assistant to the Director Sharon Monroe. The two cut the first slices of centennial birthday cake and shared them with CO's 700 employees.





Sharon Monroe, senior executive assistant to the director, and Rich Tiemeyer, chief council, have the honor of cutting the cake.

Director Dave Nichols shares the Governor's Proclamation.



### New Conference Rooms Available

Three new conference rooms are nearing completion and are ready for scheduling at Central Office. The conference rooms are located on the second floor between Financial Services and Transportation Planning.

The rooms are available to all users through the lotus notes calendar and are simply named conference rooms 204, 205 and 206.

As work continues with the finishing touches and furnishing the areas, full capacity seating and tables are not quite ready in all rooms, but will be finalized soon.

Phone service is currently available in room 204. Phone service for 205 and 206, as well as video conferencing for all three rooms, will soon be available.

Conference room seating capacities:

- Room 204 – 14 (10 seated at table, 14 chairs total)
- Room 205 - 6
- Room 206 - 30

Photo above - Room 206

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## Rock Port Welcome Center Receives LEED Certification

The Rock Port Welcome Center in Northwest Missouri is now the only LEED certified welcome center in the state. This prestigious certification recently was awarded to MoDOT for the welcome center's "green" design, construction, operation, and maintenance.

"We are extremely proud to have one of our facilities receive this environmental certification," said Northwest District Engineer Don Wichern. "This really shows that we try to be environmentally responsible when we can."

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is an internationally recognized certification offered through the Green Building Certification Institute. LEED buildings are designed to lower operating costs, reduce waste sent to landfills, conserve energy and water, be healthier and safer for occupants, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. LEED certification is based on points earned from the LEED scorecard. The Rock Port center rated 56 points, achieving silver certification status.

The theme of the Rock Port Welcome Center is "Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy: Past & Present." MoDOT used the center's theme and the LEED certification elements to design the new facility with the following features:

- Construction on existing site with minimal tree removal
- Ground source heat pump
- Energy-efficient lighting with occupancy sensors
- Hot water circulator
- Low-volume toilet fixtures with flush sensors
- Temperature-controlled vending machines
- Sand-filtered waste water treatment
- Native grass and landscaping requiring less water use
- Energy conservation educational panels around the building

Construction on the new welcome center occurred from August 2011 through June 2012 at a cost of \$5.1 million, with 80 percent of the cost coming from federal enhancement funds and a 20 percent match from MoDOT. The former welcome center was outdated and needed major investments and maintenance to remain serviceable to the public.



The Rock Port Welcome Center is located on southbound Interstate 29, two miles south of Route 136, at mile marker 108. The center is ADA accessible and includes picnic areas, a children's play area, a designated pet area, parking for 52 cars and 58 trucks.



There are displays throughout the center that share the value of sustainable design and construction. These panels educate the traveling public about energy and its conservation.

## From Around the District





Area Engineer Mike Rinehart and members of the Ag-Expo executive board sign the final contract for the construction of the Agri-Business Expo Center to be built on U.S. Hwy 36 near Route AC in St. Joseph.



The St. Joseph Police Department and QCountry Radio staff greeted Lafayette High School students as they arrived for their school day. Those buckled up received a gift and a prize entry form. Those not buckled up received literature about the importance of buckling up. This was one of three seat belt checks held in the Northwest District as part of the teen seat belt campaign.



Maryville Maintenance's Pothole Patrol crew on U.S. Hwy 71 south of Maryville. The Northwest District held a press event March 20 to educate the public about MoDOT's concentrated efforts to fill potholes during the next few weeks. Both TV stations in the area showed up and ran footage of the event.



Senior Maintenance Worker Jason Gesken fills a pothole during the Pothole Patrol event in March.

#### For more info

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#### Comments & Suggestions

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## On The Move More Visible Than Ever!

With more than 60 presentations scheduled throughout northeast Missouri, MoDOT ambassadors have been actively "On The Move" inviting Missourians to provide input on the future of transportation. Next week, our spokespeople will begin the mobile tour, which involves driving the iconic van, one of seven in the state, which has a noticeable, visible "On The Move" message displayed as a wrap.

"The purpose of the van is to attract people at events and locations in each county, so we can ask their input," said District Engineer Paula Gough.

The first scheduled location for the van is at the Pic-a-Dilly Convenience Store, a well-known "hot spot" in Center (Ralls County) next week. The bright orange van will be parked at events such as fly-ins, car shows, a barbeque, and even a grand opening of a new store over the next few months.

Ambassadors will encourage passersby or event attendees to share their input about transportation, so MoDOT can update its long-range transportation plan. Twenty mobile tour stops are currently scheduled for northeast Missouri.



Chris Knapp, transportation project manager, will be the first ambassador to take the On The Move van out publicly to encourage Missourians to provide input about the long-range transportation plan.



NE District Engineer Paula Gough addresses a crowd of 32 participants in the district's first listening session in Kirksville this week.

## Around the District...



Sixty people came to the U.S. 54 Mississippi River (Champ Clark) Bridge public meeting last week to vote for their preferred location of a new bridge. The project is in the environmental assessment phase and not yet funded for construction. Keith Killen, transportation project manager, is pictured above explaining one of the alternatives to attendees, including editor of the Louisiana Press Journal.



It's pothole season, but it's also striping season! The NE District striping was out for the first time this year on April 3, brightening up the lines on U.S. 61 from the Iowa state line to the St. Charles County line. This year, the NE District will stripe more than 5200 miles before Memorial Day, and another 5670 on minor roads this summer. Rick Brokes and his team are pictured left striping U.S. 61 between New London and Frankford.

#### For more info

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## MoDOT Celebrates 100 Years with Mavericks

by Kerri Lewis

MoDOT employees enjoyed a night out with the Mavericks on March 22 during Fan Appreciation Night. MoDOT was recognized throughout the evening for the Motorist Assist Program's 20th Anniversary, MoDOT's 100th Birthday, and the winners of the Battle of the Belt contest were announced.

The night's event started with a ceremonial puck drop by Motorist Assist Operators Tony Snorgrass and Tim Hall. As the puck hit the floor, fans were given the opportunity to remember 15-year MoDOT veteran Clifton Scott and other workers killed in the line of duty and were reminded to look out for those working on the roads. In addition, MoDOT received recognition for reaching its Centennial milestone during the intermission with an honorary Zamboni ride across the ice ridden by Snorgrass.

Park Hill South High School and Belton High School were both recognized for their Battle of the Belt achievements. Park Hill South obtained a total of 96.67 percent of students buckled up and Belton won the highest overall, with 97.63 percent of its students buckled up.



Motorist Assist Operators Tim Hall and Tony Snorgrass make the ceremonial puck drop to start the Mavericks game against the Tulsa Oilers during MoDOT Fan Appreciation night on March 22. Photo: Tina Short, Missouri Mavericks

The night was a success for MoDOT and the Mavericks. The team took the win that night and fun was had by all!



Left, Motorist Assist Operator Tony Snorgrass takes an honorary ride on the Zamboni as it clears the ice during the intermission. Right, students and faculty from Battle of the Belt winning school, Park Hill South High School and Belton High School, were honored during the evening's events at the Mavericks game. Photos: Tina Short, Missouri Mavericks

## KC Scout Receives Best of ITS Award

by Nancy Powell

A highlight of this year's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Heartland Annual Meeting held in Topeka this week was the awarding of the inaugural "Best of ITS Awards" which recognized three categories of excellence – Best ITS Project in the Heartland Region; Best New ITS Product and ITS Service or Recognition Award. Kansas City Scout won the award for Best ITS Project in the Heartland Region for its Operations and Incident Management Programs.

As one of seven entries in this category, KC Scout was selected by an ITS Heartland Awards Selection Committee as having demonstrated exemplary innovation and benefit to its community and the ITS industry. Cited for its bi-state influence and the performance results it has shown uniting 30 distinct cities and emergency response agencies to limit congestion, increase safety, reduce accidents and provide real time traveler information, Scout was recognized as having built sustainable partnerships both public and private.





Traffic Center Manager E. Jason Sims addresses the conference during his acceptance speech for the receipt of the 2013 ITS Heartland Best Project in the Heartland Award.

Accepting this first annual award on behalf of KC Scout were Clay Adams and Catherine Patrick representing KDOT and Assistant District Engineer Christ Redline and Traffic Center Manager Jason Sims. Speaking for the honorees, Jason thanked the ITS Heartland Selection Committee and acknowledged members of the Scout Operations and Incident Management teams. Each state received a custom designed glass blown sculpture to proudly display in recognition of this unique annual award.



Kansas City Scout won the ITS Heartland Best Project in the Heartland Region at the 2013 ITS Heartland Conference. Pictured left to right presenter 2013 ITS Heartland President, Barb Blue, KDOT, KC Scout Board Members Catherine Patrick and Clay Adams, KDOT, Assistant District Engineer Chris Redline, MoDOT Traffic Center Manager Jason Sims and Matt Volz, Televent. Photo: Kurt Weaverling, KDOT

## KC District Events



MoDOT Senior Construction Liaison Dave Luther (right) presents the City of Platte City a check for \$249,370 for a Local Public Agency Safe Routes To School Project. The funds will be used to construct a sidewalk near the Platte City R-III High School so students and other pedestrians can safely access local businesses. Also pictured (l-r): Mayor Frank Offutt, Public Works Director Leonard Hendricks, Alderman Ron Porter and several Platte City R-III elementary, middle and high school students who will benefit from the project. Photo: Jennifer Benefield



District Safety and Health Manager Joe Jarboe (standing lower, right) speaks with Lafayette, Pettis and Saline County employees about working safely during the district's first Spring Employee Meeting on April 3 at the Concordia Community Center. Photo: Jennifer Benefield

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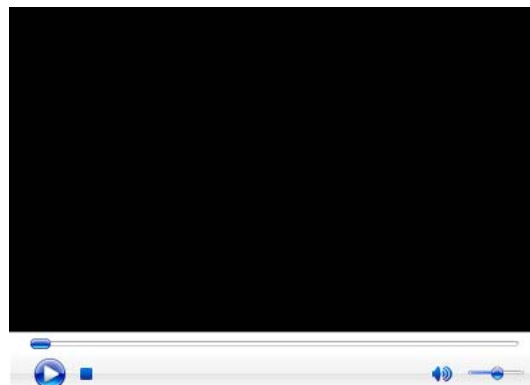
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## Second Major Project Under Way in Columbia In As Many Weeks

A project to improve Route Z in Boone County – the second major project to get under way in Columbia in as many weeks – began April 2. The project consists of replacing the existing Route Z bridge over Interstate 70, adding shoulders to and resurfacing Route Z from I-70 to St. Charles Road, and building a roundabout at the intersection of Route Z and St. Charles Road.

The work will improve safety and accommodate an expected increase in traffic associated with the new Battle High School. The project, which is funded through a cost-share agreement between MoDOT and Boone County, is scheduled for completion in early August of 2013, prior to the opening of the new school.



Area Engineer Mike Schupp briefs reporters on the new Route Z project now under way in Columbia.

## Falling Rock Prompts Emergency Contract

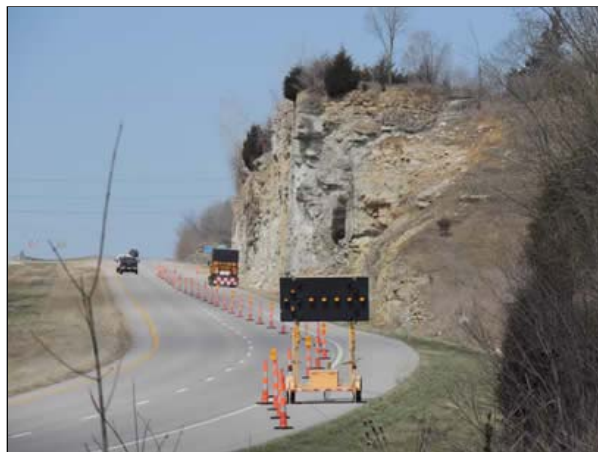
It was all hands on deck when falling rock prompted the Central District to close one northbound lane of Route 63 near the Boone/Callaway county line on March 28.

The teamwork resulted in an emergency contract being bid on March 29, and a \$600,000 contract to stabilize the rock bluff awarded to Boone Construction Company of Columbia on April 1. The job entails stabilizing the face of the rock bluff and cutting a series of steps into it to prevent loose rock from falling onto the highway.

"We moved as quickly as we could to get this work under contract so we can open the highway back up as soon as possible," said MoDOT Central District Engineer David Silvester.

"I want to thank each of you for all your efforts in this emergency contract," said Danica Stovall-Taylor, estimate and review engineer, in an e-mail to the participating Central District employees. "All of you had a part in making this a successful project, from developing plans to contract award. The contract documents were available for contractors in less than 12 hours, amazing! It is individuals like you who continue to make MoDOT successful!"

The project is scheduled for completion in early May.



This rock bluff at the Boone/Callaway county line will be stabilized under an emergency contract awarded April 1.

## 100 and Counting!



Central District Engineer David Silvester, Executive Assistant Edith Walton and Assistant District Engineer Travis Koestner serve cake and ice cream to Senior Financial Services Technician Karyn Veltrop as part of MoDOT's 100th birthday celebration.

through Missouri.

On March 22, 1913, the Missouri Legislature created the Missouri State Highway Department. Almost immediately afterward, construction began across the state to link adjoining county seats with paved and maintained roadways.

By the beginning of the next decade, legislatures were trying to "get Missouri out of the mud" realizing that economic prosperity and growth were integrally tied to transportation.

Over the decades MoDOT has managed to keep Missouri moving. Today the state serves as a transportation crossroads for the entire nation.

There are 4,800 miles of railroad tracks, 1,379 miles of interstates, 125 public-use airports and 15 public ports. If you're trying to get goods from one side of the country to the other, it's likely they'll pass

It's safe to say that the Show-Me state will retain its position as the crossroads of the United States, and MoDOT will be here for another 100 years, leading the nation in innovation, efficiency and customer service.

## Now, That's the Spirit!



California Senior Maintenance Worker David Logan uses his safety vest to send well wishes to customers. He says the "Have A Nice Day" message sometimes turns a frown into a smile when he's flagging traffic. David's brand of customer service could be why he's the Central District's longest-serving employee with 41+ years of service to MoDOT.

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### Comments & Suggestions

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## St. Louis Urges Area Leaders and Volunteers to Kick Off No MORE Trash! Bash

by Kara Price

Many areas of the St. Louis region will be working hard the next few weeks during the annual No MORE Trash! Bash. MoDOT St. Louis invites local elected officials, community leaders and volunteers to pick up litter Saturday, April 6 starting at 9 a.m., as part of this month-long initiative. MoDOT employees and retirees are welcome too!

Participants are encouraged to meet at one of the following trash bash locations where they will be safely guided along the routes by MoDOT while picking up litter:

- **St. Louis City** - Walgreens at Truman Parkway and Lafayette Avenue
- **North St. Louis County** - Village Square Shopping Center parking lot at Lindbergh
- **Southwest St. Louis Counties** - I-55 at Reavis Barracks commuter lot
- **St. Charles County** - I-64 at Route 94 commuter lot on South Outer Road between Route K and Route 94.
- **Franklin/Jefferson Counties** - I-44 at Gray Summit commuter lot on Route 66

MoDOT will supply participants with trash bags, safety vests, litter pickers and gloves during these litter pickups. For more information, contact Kara Price, MoDOT Community Relations, at 314-453-1810 or kara.price@modot.mo.gov.

The goal of the annual No MORE Trash! Bash is to spread awareness of Missouri's litter problem and work toward a litter-free state. This initiative is sponsored by the Missouri Departments of Transportation and Conservation to clean up Missouri. Keeping litter off the roadways and out of the water is an important step in beautifying Missouri for another beautiful spring and summer.



## St. Louis Features Statewide "On The Move" Mobile Tour Vehicle



This captive vehicle is one of seven throughout the state that will be featured at "On The Move" mobile tours to discuss the future of transportation. These vehicles will travel to community events engaging Missourians to learn and discuss transportation needs. It is ready to attend its first mobile tour at Tartan Days in St. Charles this weekend, and then Earth Day later this month.

## Work Zone Safety Message Stresses "We're All In This Together"



## Message from District Engineer

by Andrew Gates

It's spring, and for us that means the start of construction and increased maintenance operations around the region. And though construction work zones are possibly our most visible, we have work zones every day and night, working as needed in rain, snow, heat, or any other weather condition. Over the past few years we have made an aggressive effort to keep our roads maintained and safe. During March, we focused heavily on patching potholes along our roadways.

As we move through spring and into summer, we don't expect this to change. We are committed to making every effort to keep our roadways in good condition for the safety of the traveling public. That means we will continue to have short-duration or moving work zones, many at night when visibility is lower. We cannot forget how important our part is in making sure work zones are easy to understand and safe. It's critical, both for us and for the traveling public, to have clear signs and correct traffic control. We have to do our part to help drivers travel safely through those work zones. We'll also continue to encourage drivers to do their part as well.

One week a year, the nation focuses on work zone awareness. National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 15-19; this year's theme is "We're All In This Together." The week is a national opportunity to bring the public's attention to work zones and their responsibility to drive safely and pay attention.

Here in St. Louis, we will be holding a kick-off event Monday, April 15, at 11 a.m. at the work zone for the I-64 and Tower Grove project. The event will be on the south side of I-64, on Newstead Avenue in St. Louis City where crews are constructing the new bridge over the interstate. This kick-off event will allow us to bring the public's attention to their responsibilities in work zones and remind them to drive slowly and safely through our work areas. We will also remind the public that we continue to give them the opportunity to rate our work zones, which will help us ensure that all our work zones continue to meet the public's expectations. You are all invited to attend, with your supervisor's permission.



memorial ceremony held a few years ago to remember MoDOT St. Louis employees lost in the line of duty. This memorial is held every April.

We are also planning our internal memorial event, to remember the 26 St. Louis area MoDOT employees who have been lost in the line of duty. We have invited their families and encourage you, again with your supervisor's permission, to attend. The event is 11 a.m. Friday, April 19, at the Memorial Rock in front of the District Office. I hope to see employees there.

We are the ones who are ultimately responsible for ensuring that our work zones are visible, easy to navigate and safe. Let's continue to ensure our work zones are top-notch and continue making our work zones safe in 2013 and beyond!  
*Ed Hassinger, MoDOT St. Louis District Engineer*

Pictured is St. Louis' work zone

### For more info

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### Comments & Suggestions

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**POTHOLE PATROL ROLLS ON:** Using permanent patching material to repair concrete pavement on a Route 65 ramp at Kearney Street in Springfield are, from left, Maintenance Crew Leader Ben Arnall, Senior Maintenance Worker Paula Hess, Senior Maintenance Worker Debbie Rodriguez and Intermediate Maintenance Worker Jerry Roland of Springfield Maintenance. (Photo by Bob Edwards)



**SHELL KNOB BRIDGE REHAB:** Branson Senior Construction Inspector Burt Pitchford oversees contractor crews as they pour concrete to shape a bridge wall on the Route 39 bridge over Table Rock Lake at Shell Knob. (Photo by Dusty Sears)

## Deck Replaced, Painting Next On Shell Knob Bridge Rehab

by Angela Eden

The \$5.4 million project to make major repairs to the Route 39 bridge over Table Rock Lake in Shell Knob is progressing well and is set to be completed in late May, just ahead of the busy summer tourist season.

Branson Senior Construction Inspector Burt Pitchford, who is overseeing the project, said the work to replace the bridge deck and paint parts of the bridge "has gone like clockwork." The project is 90 percent complete.

In September, crews with Phillips Grading and Construction from Boonville began replacing the bridge deck half at a time and replacing the bridge walls.

By the week of March 25, a new deck and barrier walls were built. Now comes about six weeks of work to prep and paint the bottom half of the bridge, install guardrail on either end of the bridge and do other clean up work.

Pitchford said the contractor "took advantage of every opportunity to pour concrete."

Luck helped as well, he said. The contractor was able to pour concrete for the west half of the bridge deck between snowstorms in late March.

The project is set for completion by the Memorial Day holiday and Pitchford expects the contractor to meet the deadline.

"I'll say they'll get with it and get it done," he said.



**A slip-form machine to shape a new bridge wall.**

## No Huge Snows in 2012-13, But Major Efforts Required

by Angela Eden

A fairly mild 2012-13 winter still required tons of effort to keep Southwest District roads clear.

Southwest District crews drove 800,000 miles, spent 50,000 hours on the road and used 17,000 tons of salt (of the total stockpile of 30,000 tons) to clear snow and ice from roadways during the 2012-2013 winter season.

District Maintenance Engineer Michael Middleton said the district responded well to multiple smaller storms.

"We had a great opportunity to gain more experience for personnel pushing snow," he said.

More employees who had not plowed snow before were trained and pressed into duty due to MoDOT's downsizing under the Bolder Five-Year Direction that began in mid-2011. The 2011-12 winter was even milder than this year's winter, so few workers were able to gain significant experience until this winter.

The increase in winter storms this year also allowed the district to see exactly how adaptations in winter operations worked, including providing a better look at the "loops" that snowplows travel to clear major routes. Changes were made on some routes to improve response where needed.

More snow hit northern parts of the Southwest District than the southern areas. But the way the storms came across the nation, the district was not hammered by a massive, district-wide event.

The sporadic nature of the winter storms enabled neighboring districts to break away and help one another. Several times the Southwest District sent crews north to assist the Kansas City area and the Central District helped the Southwest District during a March 21 snowstorm.

"I was very proud of the way the crews volunteered to help one another," Middleton said.

During a March 24 snowstorm, the Southwest District Emergency Operations Center fielded 915 phone calls during a 24-hour period.

"It was very impressive -- the number of phone calls handled," said Middleton.

Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller said MoDOT as a whole this year did a better job of coming together to battle snow no matter where a storm hit the state.

"The thing I'm most proud of is that we adapted so quickly to move resources to other parts of the state that needed them," Mueller said. "We did more of it, and we got better at it so we could do it quickly."

#### For more info

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## Southeast Missourians Help Build Transportation Plan at Poplar Bluff

From highway upgrades, such as connecting I-24 to I-57, to simply maintaining the current system, attendees at the recent Poplar Bluff listening session shared a variety of ideas for MoDOT's long-range transportation plan.

The session was held on March 21 at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center, as part of MoDOT's statewide engagement effort called On The Move.

The meeting's host, Tiffany Jenkins, director of marketing and public relations at Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center, kicked-off the program by discussing the importance of transportation in Missourians' everyday lives.

Southeast District Engineer Mark Shelton and Listening Session Facilitator Jeff Glenn then provided the audience with an overview of the state's transportation system, as well as specifics about Southeast Missouri.

"We want Missourians to help us build a strong vision for our state's future," said Shelton. "Together, we will create a vision for a safe and reliable system, while fostering economic prosperity."

Attendees participated in roundtable discussions based on various funding scenarios to discuss MoDOT's challenges, opportunities and priorities.

As findings from the roundtable discussions were shared, Mr. Frank Carroll provided a brief summary on the importance of inland ports and Mr. Jim Vernon addressed the crowd about creating a historic Route 66 to increase tourism.

Shelton explained there will be more opportunities for Missourians to provide comments as MoDOT hits-the-streets and visits each of its 114 counties this spring through a series of mobile tours.

In addition, comments may be submitted online at [www.missourionthemove.org](http://www.missourionthemove.org). Visitors to the site can also learn about Missouri's current transportation system, track what MoDOT is hearing from Missourians and stay updated on the latest On the Move events. To view photos from the event, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633070758985/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633070758985/).



District Engineer Mark Shelton discusses transportation in Missouri with a listening session attendee in Poplar Bluff. To view more photos, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633070758985/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633070758985/).

## Congrats to SE District's Long-Term Safety Award Recipients



Please congratulate the SE District's long-term safety award recipients.

On March 27, the Southeast District held a luncheon to honor long-term safety award recipients. Please congratulate the following employees!

**25 years:** James Allen, Ava; Gary Sager, Charleston; Jacky Traw, Sikeston; Tony Burrow, Sikeston; Bryan Fortner, Bellevue; and Pat Evans, Gainesville.

**20 years:** Brian Holt, Sikeston; Jerome Henson, Sikeston; Lynn Smith, Poplar Bluff Construction; Darrell Hickman, Ava; and Brian Frazier, Sikeston.

**15 years:** Rodney Yost, Gainesville; Johnny Hart, Sikeston; Michael Harris, Poplar Bluff Bridge; Steve Rightnowar, Poplar Bluff Bridge; Donnie Essner, Sikeston; Larry Nicholson, Ellington; Bill Brawley, Winona; Thomas Smotherman, West Plains; Clay Woods, Willow Springs; James Barnes, Poplar Bluff Bridge; Nathan Hunt, Jackson;



Thomas Sullivan, West Plains; Josh Wessel, Jackson; and Dallas McRoy, Dexter.

To view photos from the luncheon, please visit [www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633102665115/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/43000037@N05/sets/72157633102665115/).

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